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VOYAGES AND ADVENTURES
OF
JACK HALLIARD,



IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN.

BOSTON:
TICKNOR, REED, AND FIELDS.

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JACK HALLIARD.

CHAPTER I.

*How Jack Halliard happened to go on Board a Whale ship.
About the Spermaceti, and how she got among the Ice
How Jack Halliard clomb into a Crow's nest and froze
his Nose and Ears.*

I told you in my last little book, my young readers, that I was taken prisoner in the revolutionary war and carried into Ireland. I remained there till the war was over. Ships seldom sail from that part of Ireland where I was to America, and so I had no chance of getting home. As I wanted very much to see my friends, I crossed over the Irish channel to England, in hopes of finding a ship there.

I went directly to the city London. Before I could find a ship ready to sail, I fell sick. It was a long while before I recovered, and when I did recover, I had spent all my money. Doctor's bills are very expensive things.

I could not pay my passage home, and none of the masters of vessels bound to America, would let me work for it. So I went on board a ship which was going to Greenland to catch whales, and hired myself. She was called the *Spermaceti*, and the captain's name was George Scoresby.

There were fifty men on board besides myself, and the ship was much like any other one, only stronger. She had a good many boats, and there were a great many casks and barrels on board to hold the oil. Besides, there were several large iron cisterns, for the same purpose. The sailors called them *tanks*.

We had not been long at sea when we met

with a good deal of loose floating ice, which was the first I ever saw of the kind. I thought the ship would have been crushed by the pieces ; but soon found that they were not so dangerous as I thought.

Some of the pieces were very large and high. The sea dashed up upon these much higher than the masts of the ship. These are called *ice-bergs*. Others were of all manner of strange shapes and figures.

The next morning Captain Scoresby ordered the men to set up the *crow's nest*. I suppose you have seen crow's nests on trees ; but this was quite a different thing. It was a large cask, with one head knocked out, and a trap door cut out in the other, big enough for a man to get through.

This cask was hoisted up the mast and made fast there. When this was done, the captain put a spy-glass into my hand, and told me to

climb up there and look out for whales. I did as he bade me, though the weather was very cold and the wind blew hard. I opened the trap door in the bottom of the crow's nest, and when I had got in, I shut it again. I stood there four hours, almost dead with cold, but did not see any whales. When I came down, my nose and ears were frozen, and I was obliged to thaw them with snow.

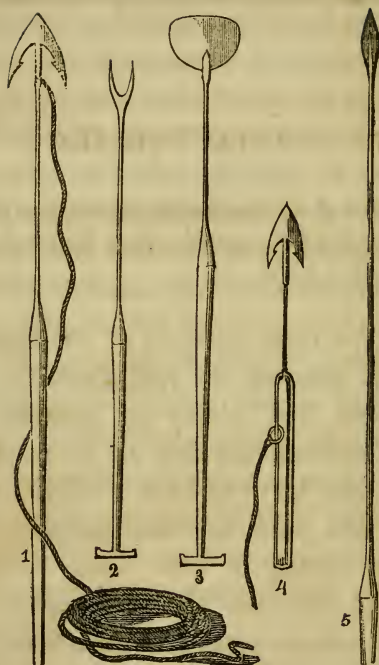
By this time we were in Davis's Straits, which you will readily find on the map of North America. The day after I went into the crow's nest we were stopped by the ice, which lay before us as far as we could see, and farther. The sea was completely frozen up, and the ice was rough, so that it was not easy to run upon it. It was full of holes and little hills.

CHAPTER II.

How the Crew of the Spermaceti danced upon the Ice. The Story that Bill Bobstay told. Jack Halliard's Song about a Frog and a Crow.

When we came in sight of the fixed ice, the sailors all shouted for joy, thinking that now they would find plenty of whales. Captain Scoresby ordered the ship to be made fast and gave the men leave to have a frolic.

In the first place he called the harpooners into the cabin, and gave them some strong drink. He poured this into the iron sockets of their harpoons which certainly were a strange kind of drinking cups. A harpoon is a kind of spear to kill whales. On the next page are the instruments used in catching whales.



The picture marked 1 is a common harpoon ; that marked 3 is a kind of sharp spade to cut whales up with ? No. 4 is a harpoon which is fired from a gun. No. 5 is a lance to kill the whale with after he has been harpooned. No. 2 is an instrument called a Pricker.

All the rest of the men had a wine-glass full of liquor apiece. I do not think that this drinking of rum is a good practice, very far from it ; but most sailors, I am sorry to say, will do so.

Then we all went to dance on a smooth spot on the ice. A tall old man named Jock Jabos played on the fiddle and another man sung. This was the only music we had, and as it was cold, we were obliged to jump fast to keep ourselves from freezing. This was the song the musician sung

Nay truly Jenny I'm no such ninny,
To care a doit what passes :
Twixt you and any, there are full many
Right bonny Scalloway lasses :
So cease your flouting, and ease your pouting,
I'll o'er the hills to morrow ;
And you may vex whose heart you can,
Mine was not made for sorrow.

After we were tired of dancing we went on board again to make merry. It was Saturday, and this is the way whalemens always spend Saturday evening. Captain Scoresby allowed us

a bowl of punch, and we sat down round it to sing songs and tell stories.

One Bill Bobstay, who had been a whaleman many years, told us this tale, which made us all laugh heartily.

“I was once lying at anchor,” said he, “in the mouth of the river Thames, and there was a Dutch vessel nigh us. In the night there was a loud noise on board of her, and I got up to see what was the matter.

“The moon shone bright and the Dutch vessel was quite nigh, so that we could see very well what was going on. There was a great, fat woman walking about the deck scolding and swearing at a terrible rate.

“She had a bundle of long tobacco-pipes in her hand, which, she said, she meant to break over somebody’s head. The little cabin-boy, who was terribly frightened, had run to the end of the bowsprit to get out of harm’s way.

“Presently a little, lean man came up from the cabin, and began to shake his fist at the lady and swear at her, for he was tipsy. We afterwards learned that he was her husband.

“At first she said nothing, but presently she lifted up the pipes and smashed them to pieces on his head, which made us all burst out laughing. But she was not satisfied with what she had done. She went at him with her fists, and drove him up against the bulwarks, or sides of the vessel. They were not high, and he tumbled over them heels over head into the water.

“We immediately hoisted out a boat to save him from drowning. At the same time a great water dog that we had in the ship jumped over also. The dog’s name was Grampus. We got before him with the boat, and picked the poor Dutchman up; but Grampus got a red woollen cap that had fallen from his head, and swam with it to our vessel’s side. Afterwards, in

Greenland, Grampus got cold in his head, and wore that very nightcap every night, to keep the air out of his ears.

“As to the Dutchman, we put him on board his own ship. We set sail the next morning, and I never saw or heard any more of him.”

When Bill Bobstay had finished his story, we began to sing songs. Toward midnight it came to my turn, and I sung this little one.

There was a little frog in the river did swim-o,
And there came a jolly black crow to drink at the brim-o
Come ashore frog—come ashore frog— said the crow to the frog.—

When I had done, the men said it was the best song they had heard yet, and they wanted me to give them another. But just then Captain Scoresby came down among us, and said it was time for all to go to sleep. So all, excepting twelve who staid up to take care of the ship, went to their berths.

You now know, my young readers, how whalemen spend Saturday evening in Greenland.

CHAPTER III.

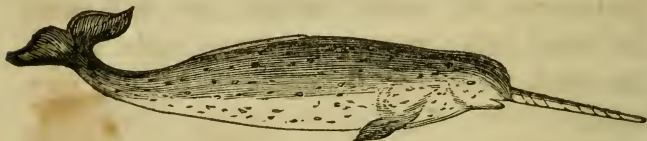
How Jack Halliard shot a Narwhal. How he saw two Razor Backs. How one of them Dragged a Boat under Water and made the Crew swim for their lives and gave a great Deal of Trouble.

The next day being Sunday, Captain Scoresby would suffer no manner of work to be done; but read prayers to the crew. This was very right.

On Monday Morning it was my turn to go up into the crow's-nest, and presently I saw a strange looking, large fish coming toward the vessel. It had a horn coming straight out of the end of its nose, and now and then it poked it up out of the water. It was a narwhal. I called to Captain Scoresby to send me up a gun that I might shoot it, and at the same time I let down

a rope. The captain tied the gun to the end of it and I pulled it up.

By this time the narwhal was close to the ship, and almost under me, for the vessel leaned over considerably. I fired and the bullet went directly through the creature's head and killed it. It floated, and was soon picked up and brought on board by one of the boats.



It was sixteen feet long, and we got several barrels of oil out of it. Besides, the horn was worth something, being very fine ivory. Some call this animal a *Sea Unicorn*. Above is a picture of a narwhal.

All of a sudden I saw two whales not far from the ship. "Fish! fish!" cried I, as loud as I

could bawl, and all the men cried "Fish! fish!" also. All the boats were lowered into the sea in the twinkling of an eye. Then I got down from the crow's nest.

Captain Scoresby climbed up the rigging to look out. Presently the whales began to blow, that is, to spout water up into the air. You must know that whales have holes in the tops of their heads, which communicate with their mouths. They take water into their mouths and blow it up through these holes with a great noise.

I had heard whales blow before, but never so loud as these. The captain came down and said they were razor-backs, and if he had known that, he would not have suffered the boats to go after them. These razor-back whales are very hard to catch and dangerous.

As the boats came nigh these whales I saw one of them throw up his tail into the air and go

down in an instant. The tail was as broad as the ship's deck. The other whale lay still till the foremost boat came close to it, and the harpooner struck his harpoon into its side.

The fish struck a tremendous blow at the boat with his tail, but luckily he missed it, or all the crew would have been killed. He then swam forward dragging the boat after him at a great rate. As soon as he was struck, the harpooner hoisted a flag and all the men on board the ship began to cry, "A fall! a fall!" We hoisted a flag also.

Presently we saw the men in the *fast boat*, that is the boat that had struck the whale, hold up four oars in the air. This meant that they wanted assistance very much; but it was of no use. The fish dragged them through the water so fast that none of the other boats could come nigh them.

We hoisted all the sails in the ship and steer-

ed toward them. Luckily the whale ran toward us or we could not have come nigh them. When we came nigh, we saw the men stripping off their jackets to swim, and directly they jumped overboard. Then the bow of the boat sunk, the stern rose high in the air, and then went down. The men all swam to a great cake of ice, and in a few minutes we took them on board.

We sailed in the direction the whale had taken, and the boats pulled that way also. It so happened that the fish did not swim straight forward but round the ship, so that, in about an hour it rose again. It rose so nigh one of the boats, that the harpooner struck it the second time, and the whale dragged this boat along just as it had done the first.

When the whale was just going to drag the boat under, the harpooner tied the line to a great piece of ice and let it go. The fish pulled so hard that this line was soon broken.

After awhile two more boats struck the razor-back, and it dragged them through the floating ice, in a surprising manner. When the lines came round great pieces of ice as big as a house, it turned them round in an instant. Sometimes it dragged both boats clear over fields of ice, and all the while it was pulling the sunken boat after it.

In about five hours the whale broke one of the lines, and dragged the boat that remained fast to it, quite out of sight. We sailed about till night before we came in sight of her again, and then she was a great way off. The moon shone bright, and we came up to the whale about midnight, and it seemed tired, as well it might be.

Then the Captain sent two boats, but the fish saw them, and swam away again as fast as ever. It dived, and we saw no more of it for a good while. But toward morning we got nigh it again, and one of the boats harpooned it once more. Soon after two more harpoons were struck into it.

By this time it was quite tired out, and lay still upon the water. The men then pulled the lines till the boats were close to the fish, and stabbed it with their lances, till it was dead. The lance is a kind of iron spear about six feet long.

Then the boats dragged the whale alongside the vessel, where it was made fast for awhile, that the men might take a little rest. They had chased this tronblesome fish twenty hours.

CHAPTER IV.

What Flinching is. How Dick Murray gave a lawyer a hot Breakfast. About Mollymawks and Mollymawk Boys. About the little Seal that Jack Halliard caught.

When the men had slept awhile, they rose and ate their breakfast. The whale was then made fast alongside the ship. It was as long as she was, and more slender than common whales.

We put a strong rope through its nose, and another through its tail, and hoisted it a little out of the water, so that we could stand on its belly, for it floated with its belly uppermost. It was so heavy, that it made the ship lean down on its side.

While we were doing this, all kinds of sea-birds flew round, to feast on the whale. They screamed and quarrelled. The men got down on the whale's back and began to cut off great pieces of the fat, or blubber. As fast as these were cut off, they were hoisted on deck, and put away in casks.

When we had got all the blubber off the whale, we took out the jaw-bones and hung them up to the rigging. There is a great deal of oil in the jaw-bones of whales. We then let the carcass go, and it sunk to the bottom. It was of no use; for the oil, and the whale-bone, are the only parts of the animal that are useful. There is none of either in the carcass.

While we were *flinching* the whale, as cutting it up is called, it often happened that we let pieces of the blubber fall into the sea. A large shark that was swimming about, snapped some of them up before we could get hold of them again. If any of the men had been so unfortunate as to fall overboard, no doubt he would have devoured them. As he was very dangerous and troublesome, Captain Scoresby told me to catch him.

I went and got a large hook, as thick as a man's middle finger, which was fastened to a strong iron chain. I tied a rope to the chain, and made it fast to the ship, and then baited the hook with a great piece of blubber. As soon as the shark came near, I threw it into the water nigh him. He bit at it, and the hook was fixed in his lower jaw.

He flounced about a good deal, but could not get away. I called some of the men to help me, and we hoisted him up, so that he hung

to the ship's side. When I went to look at him, his eyes glared like fire, and he opened his mouth to bite.

One of the men, whose name was Dick Murray, spoke to me. "Stop a moment, Jack Halliard," said he, "and I will give the lawyer his breakfast." (Sailors call a shark a lawyer.)

So Murray went to the fire, and got a shovel full of burning coals. He came back with them, and looked over the ship's side at the shark. Just as the shark opened his mouth wide enough to swallow a man, Murray emptied the coals down his throat. The fish made such a struggle, that he tore the hook out of his mouth and fell into the water. We saw no more of him, so that I suppose he did not like his breakfast.

There are a kind of gulls in those seas called mollymawks. They have very strong hooked beaks like an eagle. They came about us in such numbers while we were *flinching* the whale,

that some of the men were set apart to keep them off, for without that we should have been much troubled by them. These men were called *mollymawk boys*.

These birds were so bold that the mollymawk boys caught them with boat-hooks, and cut off their heads with their knives. Sometimes, too, they would tie two little pieces of blubber to the ends of a piece of twine, and throw them into the water. Two birds would presently swallow them, and then rise in the air pulling, and hauling, at each end of the line to get the bait out of each other's throats. Sometimes they would fight in this way half an hour, each of them swallowing his end of the string twenty times only to have it pulled up again.

One of the mollymawk boys caught two of these birds with a hook and line. They bit as readily as a fish would. He set them to fighting on the deck, and they fought very hard.

After catching the shark, I saw a seal rise nigh the ship, and caught up a gun and fired at it. It dived at first, but soon came up again and lay on the water as if it were dead. I got into a boat and brought it on board, and it presently came to life again. One small shot had struck it in the head, and it had only been stunned. It was a small one, and seemed much grieved at being taken. So I put it overboard again, and let it go; for which some of our men called me "a great fool."

When we had done flinching the whale, the sea was red with its blood all round the ship. The birds were hovering all round, and it made me feel sorry to think that we had killed such an animal, for the sake of a little oil.

CHAPTER V.

How a Flag was seen upon the ice. How some Sailors were lost at Sea, and frozen to Death. How Jack Halliard had a Battle with a White Bear, and which got the Better of it.

The third day after we killed the razor-back it was bitter cold. I was in the crow's nest an hour, and was almost frozen. It snowed, too, and the snow came driving into my face. I could not see far from the ship. All at once, however, I saw a flag flying on a great piece of ice not far from us. I cried out to Captain Scoresby, and we sailed toward it.

We found twenty-four men sitting or lying down upon the ice. None of them could move; for they were all stiffened with cold. They had a whale boat and a dead whale, which they had fastened to the ice to prevent it from floating away.

When we came to shake them, we found that seven of them were dead. In half an hour more, all the rest would have been so too, for the cold was very severe. We carried those who were alive into the cabin, and treated them kindly, and rubbed them with flannels, so that at last they came to themselves, and were able to speak.

They said they belonged to the ship *Stephen*. That morning they had struck a whale, which dragged them far away from their vessel, before they killed it.

While they were killing the whale it began to snow so fast, that they could no longer see their ship. They did not know which way to tow the whale, and the sharp wind chilled them to the bones.

When they could row no more, they fastened their boat and the whale, to the piece of ice where we found them. In a very few minutes more, they would all have been dead. As it was,

some of them lost their fingers and toes, which had been frozen.

The next morning we *flinched* the whale these poor men had caught, but they never saw their ship again. She was never heard of more, and it is likely that she was crushed between the icebergs in the snow storm.

While we were flinching this whale we came close to the fixed ice, and soon after, we saw a white bear upon it. It is probable that the smell of the cook's fire drew him toward us. A white bear is a terrible animal. His teeth and claws are very long and strong, and he could eat a man up at one meal.

I asked Captain Scoresby to let me go on the ice and kill him, and he consented. I took a harpoon and a gun with me. When I came nigh him, I fired my gun and broke one of his legs. This made him angry, and he started to run after me.

I ran as well as I could; but he ran faster than I. The ice was very rough, and I fell down several times; but he kept on his feet easily. When I found that he was close to me, I threw down my cap, and he stopped to tear it to pieces.

Then he ran after me again, and I threw one of my mittens to him, and then the other. He stopped both times; but, for all that, he came after me so swiftly, that I found I could not escape. So I turned round, and made a thrust at him with my harpoon; but it was of no use. He caught the harpoon in his mouth and snatched it away from me, as you would take a switch away from a baby.

Captain Scoresby saw the danger I was in, and came on the ice to save me, with another harpoon in his hand. As soon as he came nigh me he handed me the harpoon, for he knew that I was stronger than he, and more likely to kill the bear.

By this time, the bear had broken the harpoon he had taken from me, and was running at me again. I put the butt end of it on the ice, and set my foot on it to hold it fast, so that the point was toward him. He ran directly upon it, and buried three feet of the steel in his own body, and fell down dead.



Here is a picture of my battle with the bear.

We took him on board, and the men feasted on his flesh. Captain Scoresby gave the skin to me, and I have kept it ever since.

CHAPTER VI.

How a Whale killed William Carr, and what Jack Halliard did. How the Whale was killed.

Some days after as we were sailing about on the edge of the fixed ice, the man in the crow's nest cried out that he saw a fish. The boats were instantly sent after it, and I went in one of them, which made me glad, because I had only seen the first whale taken from the ship at a distance.

The men sat at the oars, and rowed toward the whale. I was one of them. The harpooner sat in the fore part of the boat and rowed the foremost oar. His name was William Carr. His harpoon was nigh him in a dry place. A long rope was tied to it, and coiled up in the boat, so that it would run out easy. There was also a

short post in the front part of the boat, to put the line round, so that the whale should not pull it out too easy.

Our boat and another got ahead of all the rest, and we tried hard to beat that one. I never saw a man so eager as William Carr. He cried to us continually to pull hard, and offered us money and tobacco if we would only do our best. There was no need of that, but we got ahead of the other boat nevertheless.

All this while, the whale lay still upon the water. When we were quite nigh, Carr laid down his oar, and took his harpoon in his hand. The boat was going so fast that she ran directly upon the whale's back, and at that very moment, Carr thrust the harpoon into its body with both hands, with all his might. Then he cried, "Stern all!" we backed water with our oars and got clear of the fish.

For a moment after it was struck, the whale

lay perfectly still. Then it struck at us with a tail as broad as a large parlor, and dived, dragging out the line as fast as you can imagine.

Now it happened that Carr, being very eager, set his foot on the line, and it became entangled round his leg. The whale dragged him overboard and down toward the bottom so quick, that I scarcely saw him go over. There was an end of him, for we never saw him again.

Perhaps you would like to know how Carr, who was an old whaleman, came to be so careless as to set his foot on the line, I will tell you the reason. He had drank a great deal of strong drink that morning, which was the cause of the accident.

I sat next to Carr, and as soon as I saw that he was gone, I rose up, and took his place. I gave the line a turn round the short post I have already mentioned, which is called the *bollard*, and held it as fast in my hand as I could. This

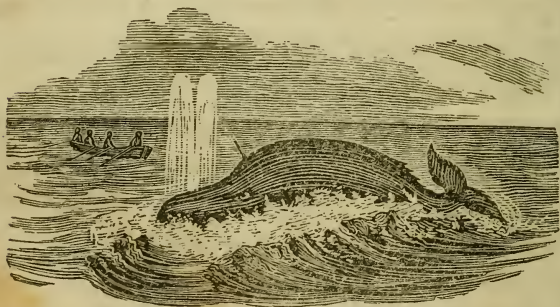
made it harder for the whale to swim than before, but still he dragged out the line very fast. Presently the bollard took fire from the friction of the rope. I took up a bucket which was placed close by, on purpose, and poured water upon it.

All this while the whale was pulling us through the water faster than you ever saw a boat go in your life. But he was soon tired and in a few minutes he rose to the top of the water and went on slower than before.

This gave the other boat a chance to get nigh him, and another harpoon was thrust into him. The wound made him dive again. But as he was already tired, and had now two boats to drag instead of one, he rose sooner than at first and went on quite slowly.

I then began to pull on the line and brought the boat alongside of the fish. The harpooner in the other boat did the same. We took our

lances and thrust them into the whale's body and stirred them round and round, till the creature began to blow blood, through the hole in his head into the air.



The harpooner of the other boat then cried to his men to get away from the fish. It was going, he said, *into its flurry*. I did not know what this meant but I got my boat away from the whale as fast as possible.

I soon saw what the whale's *flurry* was. It

spouted blood high into the air and began to beat the water with its fins and tail. Every blow made a terrible noise and the water was in a foam all round it. At last it died and turned on its back, and we towed it toward the vessel. The ship at the same time steered toward us, and we soon began to flinch the creature.

When Captain Scoresby heard how William Carr had been lost, he ordered prayers to be read. And when he heard how I had taken his place and helped to take the whale, he said that I should be harpooner in his stead, because he knew that I was a brave, active man.

I must not forget to tell you that when this whale was first struck all the men on board shouted, "A fall! A fall!" They made such a noise that one of the men who was asleep, thought that the ship had struck an iceberg and was sinking. He came on deck frightened almost to death, with only half his clothes on. He tried to get

into the boats, but they were all full, and the men would not let him get in. He thought it was all over with him, and cried out, "What shall I do—what shall I do? Will none of you take me in?" This man's name was John Raw, and we called him Jonny Raw, because this was the first time he had been at sea.

The whale I had helped to kill was a common black whale. The mouth of it was so large that a large wagon might have been driven into it without touching. The upper jaw was furnished with fringes of what is called whalebone. They are of much use to the animal, for you must know that, big as it is, it feeds on insects, and its throat is so small that nothing much bigger than an egg could go down it. The whalebone serves as a sieve to strain its food, so that nothing can get in bigger than it can swallow.

The tongue of a whale is as big as a large feather bed. It has no ears.

This whale was about sixty feet long, and was as big a one as I ever saw of the kind, though I have seen a great many. I have heard sailors say that they have seen whales a hundred and even two hundred feet long. But as I never saw any thing like it, I do not believe they spoke the truth.

A whale is a very thick fish. This one was more than half as thick as he was long. That is a spear must have been more than thirty feet in length to pass through his body from one side to the other.

The lips of this ugly beast were about twenty feet long; that is, twice as long as a barber's pole. He had only two fins. The eyes were very small for so big a creature; not bigger than those of an ox. The blood was not like the blood of most other fishes but a great deal warmer.

This whale was a valuable one. We took out

of its mouth about three thousand pounds of whalebone, and from the blubber we made eighty barrels of pure oil. It is not every whale that is worth so much as this one was.

Savages are now the only people who eat whales, but it was not always so. Whales' flesh was sold in old times in the markets of France and Spain, like any other food. I have tasted of a young whale, and it was very good eating.

CHAPTER VII.

About Greenland and the Ice Blink. About Disko Island.

A few days after, the winds carried us nigh the coast of Greenland. We saw before us high mountains, covered with ice and snow which never melts away. There was no grass, no trees, nothing that was green and handsome.

When we came close to the coast we saw a beautiful sight. Two islands lay right before us. The winds and waves had heaped up the ice between them, so that it made a very singular bridge, eighteen miles long. It had arches like some other bridges; all of ice. We sailed under one of them in a boat and came into a fine harbor, where there was clear water. This



bridge of ice has stood more than a hundred years, and the whale men call it the *ice-blink*, because it shines and can be seen a great way off at sea.

Then we sailed northward till we came to a large island called Disko. It is a great mountain, and a great many whales are caught nigh it. There are several villages on Disko Island. The one where we stopped is called Lively. The people who live there are Danes, and as white as any of us.

When I speak of days and nights, you must not think of such days and nights as we have here. When I say day I mean twelve hours, and if I say night, I mean the same thing. At Disko the sun never sets in the summer and never rises in the winter. The whole year is divided into one day and night, and each of them is six months long. However, it is not dark in the night. The Aurora Borealis, which is called the *Northern Lights*, gives a great deal of light. Perhaps you may have seen the Aurora Borealis here. It is something like flashes of lightning. Besides, the stars are very bright and the light is reflected from the snow and ice.

While we were at Disko it was very cold. There was ice in the chimneys, and water froze in pans, close to the fire. When we wanted to cook meat, we were obliged to cut it in pieces with an axe. Even brandy froze hard. Our breath froze and stuck our bed-clothes fast together. This did not last more than four or five days, but it was very cold during the whole voyage.

CHAPTER VIII.

About Greenlanders. How Jack Halliard went Seal Hunting and saved a Greenlander's Life.

What seemed to me most remarkable at Disko was the native Greenlanders. They were a little people and very ugly. Their lips were thick, like those of negroes, and their skins were of a brown color. They all dress alike, both men and women, and their clothes are made of seal skins.

They have canoes made of seal skins, and venture out to sea in them in very bad weather, when the winds blow hard and the waves run high. These canoes are covered all over, excepting a hole in the middle, for a man to sit in. When he sits down he draws a cloth tight round his waist, so that not a drop of water can get into the canoe.

These people live entirely on fish and seals, and they are a very dirty, disgusting race. The first time I went into one of their tents I thought I should have fainted, the smell was so strong. They had left pieces of fish on the ground all about, and every thing was oily and dirty. This made me turn up my nose, and one of the women began to scold me for it. "Oh!" said one of the men, "you must not mind him. He is a white man, and does not know any better." This made me think that the Greenlanders were a very vain, conceited people, and I afterwards learned that I was not mistaken.

They thought their country was the finest in the world. One of them spoke to me one day about it. "No wonder you come here," said he; "you poor white people must have a hard time of it in your own country. There you have no ice islands, no seal skins to wear and no fish and oil to eat and drink." I thought to myself that I did not care much about these things, but I did not say so. The poor Greenlander did not know any better.

One day one of the Greenlanders was setting up poles for the frame work of a tent, and asked me to help him. I tied two of the sticks together with a strong knot which pleased him very much. "That is very well," said he; "you will know as much as a Greenlander one of these days." He thought, poor man, that all people were fools excepting his own race.

The Greenlanders are quite honest; more so, indeed, than any other people I ever knew. I

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Then the seal ran at him again and gave the canoe a bite, and it filled with water. The poor man would soon have drowned if I had not helped him ; for none of his own people would go nigh him. I paddled toward him, and told him to take hold of the end of my canoe and he did so, and it kept him above water.

In the meantime the other Greenlanders attacked the seal, and stuck several spears into it and killed it. Then we all set off for Disko, and I dragged the Greenlander six miles after my canoe ; for it was too small to take him in, and so were all the rest of them. When we got ashore the poor savage was chilled almost to death.

One of the women took a knife and cut the seal's throat, and caught the blood in a bowl. She gave him some of it to drink, and afterwards handed him some dry clothes and helped him to put them on. After this he was as well as ever.

This was the only time I went fishing with the

Greenlanders. I was very cold all the while, and the man at the end of my canoe was several times nigh upsetting it. If he had done so we should both have been drowned. Therefore, I did not go with the natives again, though they often asked me.

CHAPTER IX.

About Walrusses. How a Walrus attacked a Boat and sunk it. How the Sailors killed nine Walrusses. How a Walrus was killed by a White Bear, which was then killed by Jack Halliard.

When we left Disko we sailed about a good while without seeing any whales. But once the man in the crow's nest cried to the captain that he saw some strange beasts on a great cake of ice. We sailed toward them.

When we came pretty nigh the captain ordered us to get out the boats, and said that the ani-

imals were walrusses. We took guns and powder and balls and some whale lances with us. Captain Scoresby himself went in one of the boats.

The walrusses did not move when we got upon the ice near them. They were great animals as big as an ox, with round faces. They had bristles on their cheeks as big as straws. Besides, they had tusks growing out of their upper jaws, much like the tusks of an elephant. These tusks were almost two feet long. But the most singular parts of these animals were their legs ; which were quite short ; not longer than the legs of a young child. Their paws were more like fins than feet. They were broad and flat, and it seemed to me that they were better for swimming than for walking. I soon found that I was right in my opinion.

When we were quite nigh the walrusses, we fired our guns at them and killed three. The rest retreated backwards, very clumsily, roaring,

and opening their mouths, so as to show us their teeth. We dared not go nigh them; for they seemed fierce and strong. When they came to the edge of the ice they tumbled over into the water, and began to swim away like seals.

By this time I had loaded my gun again. I fired and hurt one of the walrusses quite severely, so that he could not swim fast. Then I and three other men got into a boat and followed him.

When we came nigh him he turned to fight us. He came against the boat and struck it with his tusks, and beat a board out of the bottom of it. So we found ourselves swimming in the cold water in as little time as it takes to snuff a candle.

Captain Scoresby came in his boat and took us up and then we went after the walrus again. We fired four guns at it and killed it dead. Then we turned the boat round and went after the others.

We soon came to three of them. They were a male and female, and had a young one, about as big as a calf, with them. Captain Scoresby and another man fired, and wounded the two old ones, and then they turned round to fight us.

As the he one came up I took a lance and struck him in the breast; but the iron bent double; for the animal's skin was very thick and tough and the lance was dull. So the walrus got his tusks over the side of the boat and tried hard to upset it. We had to get on the other side to prevent him. Still I believe he would have overturned the boat if I had not taken up a gun with a bayonet at the end of it. I plunged the bayonet into his breast and then he let the boat go.

Then both the full grown walrusses came at us, and we were obliged to stab them several times with lances and bayonets before we could kill them. All the while the young one kept

climbing upon their backs, but when its parents were dead, we easily killed it also:

We killed nine walrusses in all and took them to our ship. We got some oil out of them, and ate some of their flesh. I ate a walrus cutlet, and I can assure you, it was not bad eating. When we cut them open, we found small stones and eel-grass in their stomachs; which makes me believe that they live upon eel-grass.

Just after we had killed the walrusses, there came on a thick fog. We could not see as far as the length of the ship from us. We therefore made the ship fast to a great piece of ice and laid still for awhile. When the fog cleared away, we saw a strange sight.

There was a great field of ice close to us with an ice hill just in the middle of it. A walrus was lying asleep at the bottom of this hill, and on the top of it there was a great block of ice, that seemed as if it were just about to tumble over and roll down upon the walrus.

We had got our guns ready and were going to shoot the walrus when we saw a great white bear coming. The captain told us to remain on board and see what the bear would do. So we laid down our guns and clomb up the rigging to watch.

As the bear came toward the walrus, the walrus woke up and began to get ready to dive into the water. When the bear saw this he went round to the other side of the ice hill, so that the walrus could not see him. Then he crept forward slowly and carefully.

When the bear came to the *hummock* (for that is the name the whalemén give to a hill of ice) he crept carefully up to the top, and tumbled down the great block upon the walrus. It did not kill him, but it hurt him very badly, and he could scarcely scramble into the water. The bear plunged in after him, and caught him before he had got three yards.

Then the bear dragged the walrus up upon the ice and began to tear him to pieces. Perhaps he would have eaten him up, but Captain Scoresby told me to take my gun and go after him. I did so. He was so eager eating the walrus that he did not see me coming. I shot a bullet right through his head, and so got a bear and a walrus with one shot.

CHAPTER X.

How a Whale cut a comical Caper. How Bill Bobstay harpooned a Whale. How Jack Halliard and Dick Murray took a Ride on a Fish's Back.

A little while after we killed the walrusses, it began to be extremely cold, and more ice came about us than before. Sometimes the pieces were closely jammed together, at other times they were a little separated, so that we could

get the ship a little forward. Once we saw a whale between two great pieces, that were so close together that he could not turn round.

We went with our lines and harpoons to kill him, but he saw us before we got to him. You must know that when whales go under water, they commonly dive, and as they go down, throw their monstrous tails into the air. This whale had not room to do so. When he tried to dive he ran his head against a great block of ice. So he went down tail foremost showing his enormous head out of water, and this he did so awkwardly that all the crew laughed. None of them had ever seen a whale go down in that manner before.

Just after this whale went out of sight a very large piece of ice ran against the ship, so hard that every man on deck was thrown down. If you have ever been on board a boat when it struck any thing, you may have some idea of the shock this blow gave us.

Soon after, more pieces of ice came toward us, but we managed to push them off with poles. Captain Scoresby said that the ice would make all round us and that we should be frozen in. If this happened we could catch no more whales. Therefore the captain went up into the crow's nest, and saw a great open place in the ice like a pond, with several whales in it. When he came down he ordered all the sails to be hoisted. There was a good wind, which forced the vessel along between the pieces of ice, and in a little while we got into the lake in the ice.

It was lucky that we were there, for the sea was frozen hard all over soon after. But our lake was several miles long and as many broad, so that we could sail up and down.

When we were safe in the lake, Captain Scoresby ordered us to hoist out the boats and go after the whales that we saw. There was a very large one nigh us, and two boats went after

it. I was harpooner to one of them, in the place of William Carr. I tried hard to get first to the whale, but did not succeed. There were but seven oars in my boat, and there were eight in the other.

Bill Bobstay was harpooner to the other boat, and he came to the fish just as it was going to dive. He struck it with his harpoon and it ran under the ice dragging the line after it. Presently it dragged all the line out and I was obliged to fasten mine to it.

It dragged that out too, and another boat came to us and lent us her line, and we tied it to the end of the other. By this time it came up and broke the ice over it with its head, though it was a foot thick. Then it swam slowly along, with its back above water, breaking the ice as it went forward.

At last it got to a great hole in the ice and lay still. We ran to strike it with our lances, and

saw that the harpoon was almost out of its body. It hung down over the creature's back, as if it were just going to fall out. "Oh, what a pity!" cried Captain Scoresby. "The harpoon will come out and we shall lose the fish altogether."

"No," says I, "captain; we will not. If you will let me, I will jump on his back and fix it fast enough." The captain and all the men stared at me, as if they knew what to say, but I did not mind them.

I pulled off my jacket and ran and jumped upon the whale's back. It was tired and did not mind me till I began to cut the harpoon out of it with my jack-knife. Then it began to move forward again, but slowly. I found I could not do any thing alone and called to Dick Murray to come and help me.

He jumped upon the whale and held up the heavy, wet line, while I took the harpoon. I set the point against the creature's back and set the

other end to my shoulder. In this way I thrust the harpoon three feet deep into the whale's body.

Then it started again with a vengeance and threw me and Dick Murray off into the water; but we swam to the ice and got upon it quite easily. After this the whale ran forward for a quarter of an hour, making the ice all the way, till it died. A very large fish and every one who had not been for me, we should have lost it. Captain Scoresby said, too, that he had been a whaler thirty years, and had never seen a man take a ride on a whale's back before.

CHAPTER XI.

How three White Bears went Swimming, and how the Sailors killed them All.

When we had done flinching the whale Captain Scoresby asked me to go down into the cabin and take supper with him. I felt proud of the compliment and sat down to the table. There was a comfortable fire in the cabin stove, and we ate and drank and smoked our pipes, and enjoyed ourselves as much as if we had not been in the midst of the ice at a great distance from home.

All at once one of the sailors put his head into the cabin door and called out "brownies ! brownies !" as loud as he could bawl. He meant bears, for that is the name the Greenland Sailors give them.

We ran on deck, and saw three bears upon the ice, a good way off, just going to plunge into the water. Two of them were full grown and the other was a little one. Before they got far the mate and myself and two more men got into a boat and rowed away after them. We had guns and two or three sharp lances with us.

When we came near the bears they looked very much like sheep in the water. Their hair was white and long and floated all round them. But when they turned their heads round to roar and growl at us, they did not look like sheep at all. Their eyes shone like balls of fire, and their jaws and teeth were enough to make a man tremble.

I took up a gun and was going to shoot the hindmost bear; but the mate told me not to do so, because the bullet hole would injure the skin. He meant to spear them all three, he said. So I laid down my gun and he took up a lance.

When we came close to the hindmost bear, and she saw that she could not escape, she turned round and faced us. She raised her fore paws out of water and was just going to lay them on the side of the boat, when the mate set the point of his lance against her breast and thrust it deep into her body. She gave a furious yell, and bit the iron. Presently, her head and paws dropped down, she trembled all over and died.

We left her floating there and went after the others. One of them was as big as a cow and he looked so fierce and roared so loud that we thought it best not to get too near him. The other was a little one, and looked so pretty that we concluded to catch it and take it on board the ship alive.

But when we came up to the old one he turned round to fight. He looked so savage and terrible that I thought if the mate should miss him with his lance, we should be in a bad way.

So I took aim at him : but at the very instant that I fired my gun he threw up his heels and dived under water. The bullet went over him and struck the little brownie in the head and killed him in an instant.

In about a minute the old bear came up again, a good way from the boat, and swam toward the ice as fast as he could. Then I fired at him again. But the wind had begun to blow and the waves to rise, so that the boat did not go steadily, I did not kill him. However the bullet hit him in the shoulder and hurt him badly.

Now the bear could not swim as fast as before and we soon overtook him. The mate said he would drown him. So he took a rope and made a slip knot in it and put it on the end of an oar. When we were nigh enough, he tried to throw the knot over the beast's head.

But the bear did not much like to be caught in that way. He struck the rope away with his

paw and laid hold of the oar with his teeth and bit it in two pieces. Then he turned to fight with us, and it was a grand sight to see him. He opened his jaws so wide that we saw every one of his teeth, and roared so loud that the men heard him on board the ship, though it was now two miles off. We thrust at him with our lances, but it was of no use. He knocked them aside with his paws. All on a sudden it began to snow very fast.

The bear thought that this was a good chance to get out of the difficulty and turned to swim away from us. But he had hardly turned his head when the mate threw the rope over his head. We then rowed fast toward the ship, pulling his head under water as we went. This soon drowned him.

We then went to look after the other two; but the water was now so rough and the snow fell so thick that it was some time before we found

them. Then we looked toward the ship and saw a piece of canvass hoisted at the mast head, as a signal for us to return. This canvass is made in the shape of a globe, and is called a bucket

CHAPTER XII.

How Jack Halliard got his Bears on Board. About a Ship that was Sunk by the Ice. Jack Halliard tells how he was in Danger of Shipwreck and how the Spermaceti was Beset.

By this time the snow had done falling and the wind blew very hard. The ice was breaking up in every direction. Great fields of it split asunder and great blocks were knocked together by the waves, with a noise louder than thunder. It was awful, it was frightful to hear it.

The wind drove the ship along so fast that we could not have caught her if I had not hit upon a plan to make us go faster. I set up an oar in

the forepart of the boat, and fixed my great coat upon it for a sail. This contrivance carried us along very swiftly.

After awhile we got alongside of the *Spermaceti* and hoisted our bears on board. All the men were upon the deck and Captain Scoresby was in the crow's nest. When I heard that, I knew there must be some danger.

There were several other vessels near us and I saw one of them perish in a miserable manner. She was between two great fields of ice that were advancing toward each other. They caught her between them, and the ice ran right over her and sunk her. We heard the men cry, but it was impossible to help them. They were all killed by the ice, or sunk with their vessel. Since then I have known as many as ten ships to perish in the same way in one season. But the crews of most of them saved themselves upon the ice.

All at once our ship came into the midst of a great many small pieces of ice, in a clear space not much bigger than a market place. We were obliged to carry out a small anchor and to fix it upon a block of ice a good way before us. Then we pulled upon the cable to drag the ship forward. At the same time we hung a great iron weight, such as is used in cities to drive piles with, to the bowsprit. We continually let this weight fall upon the ice, to break it, and then hoisted it up again. Thus we got forward a little.

But before we could get half way to some open water that we could see, the ice began to move about more violently than ever. The pieces came crowding toward us on both sides, with a terrible noise. When they met the ship's timbers began to crack, and the ice lifted her almost out of the water.

Some of the men jumped out upon the ice, with their clothes-bags in their hands, for we

thought it was all over with her, and hoped to get on board some of the other vessels. But presently the ice separated again and let the *Spermaceti* gently down into the water. Then it closed once more, but not so violently as at first. By this time the wind had fallen and the ice remained quiet. It grew very cold and the ship was fast frozen into the middle of a great field of ice. I could not see any water from the mast head. However we thought ourselves lucky to have saved the ship and all our lives; for the men who jumped out came safe on board again. Thus we were *beset*, as the whalers call it.

Now that I have told you how our ship was caught in the ice, I think I had better tell you something about the ice itself.

There is a vast body of it in these northern seas. If it could be collected into one field, I think there would be enough of it to make a circle two thousand miles across in the middle.

Now take your map before you and I will tell you where it lies.

Every spring Hudson's and Baffin's Bays are filled with it, and the whole Arctic Ocean is covered across from Labrador to the island Nova Zembla. The whole sea north of the American continent is also covered with it, and Behring's Straits are stopped up.

Whale ships go to the icy seas in April, when the ice begins to melt. They begin to saw it away with great saws, and go northward through the canals they cut out. In about a month more the ice becomes so full of holes and so soft because of the heat of the sun, that the winds and waves break it all to pieces. The ships then get forward easily.

In July it begins to get cold again. The water freezes about the shores and the whole sea is soon frozen up. The ships then go home, or they would be obliged to stay all winter in the ice.

CHAPTER XIII.

Jonny Raw is Frightened and Ducked by a Walrus. About a Reindeer. Jack Halliard kills a Musk-Ox, and spoils his knife in skinning it.

The day after we were beset, a thing happened that made us all laugh. There was a small hole in the ice about half a mile from the ship, where there was clear water. This hole was about as big as a common parlor, and there was a little hill of ice on the side next the ship.

One of the men who happened to climb up the rigging, saw a walrus come out of this hole, to lie upon the ice. Down he came and told Jonny Raw that there was a small seal there, and that it would be a fine chance for him to catch it.

So Jonny started off upon the ice with a boat-hook in his hand. He took good care to keep

the hill between him and the walrus, so that the creature might not see him. When he came nigh he laid down flat on his belly and crept forward without making the least noise.

When he got to the top of the hill he looked over. Instead of seeing a seal, as he expected, there was a great ugly walrus within a yard of him, with long tusks, and bristles on his face.

When Jonny saw this he roared for fear, and tumbled down the hill right against the walrus. Luckily for him, the animal was as much frightened as he was. It gave him a great knock on the head with its fore paw and they both tumbled into the water together.

The walrus dived and swam away, and Jonny Raw swam to the ice and got out. He came back to the ship dripping from head to foot, and very angry at the trick that had been played him. But the men only laughed at him. After this he would never go hunting for seals.

We remained in the ice about a week. After this the ice separated and we sailed westward till we came near Southampton Island, which you will easily find on the maps. Here the ice gathered round us once more and we were beset again.

Soon after we were frozen up, I took a gun and went on shore to hunt. It was quite cold and I had to wrap myself close in my great coat. I had not gone far before I saw some creatures, with large horns, eating the moss which grows upon the rocks. They were rein-deer. There were several wolves feeding nigh them.

I went toward them behind the rocks, taking care that the wind should not blow from me to them, for fear they should smell me. You must know that rein-deer can smell a man a good way off.

There was a female rein-deer feeding apart from the rest, and she had a fawn, or young one,

with her. I came nigh these first, and I was going to shoot the mother ; but I thought that if I did the young one would scamper off. I had heard, too, that most wild creatures are very fond of their little ones, and it came into my head that if I should shoot the fawn the mother would, perhaps, stay by it.

So I fired at the young one and the ball passed through its heart and killed it. All the rest ran off, very much frightened at the sound of the gun. The mother went with them ; but presently she missed her fawn and stopped. When she saw that it was not with her she came back for it.

When she came to it she turned it over with her nose and feet ; but it could not get up, poor thing. While she was doing this I had loaded my gun again, and I fired and killed her also.

I took the fawn on my shoulders and walked back to the ship. The old one was as big as a

tolerable sized colt, and, of course, I could not carry her. When I came back for her with some of the men, I found nothing but her bones. The wolves had eaten her up.

There are great herds of reindeer all over the most northern parts of America. I have seen them running about as thick as you ever saw cattle in a pen. In the summer they come down to the seashore to feed on the moss which grows there on the rocks in great abundance. In the winter they go back into the woods where the trees keep the cold wind from them and they eat the small branches. Rein-deer are sometimes called *Caribous*.

Reindeer are very useful to the Indians. They eat the flesh and make clothes of the skins. They also make knives and spear heads of the bones and horns. Now admire the goodness of God, in sending great flocks of these creatures into countries where the poor natives could not live without them.

There are also reindeer in Lapland and Iceland. In Lapland the natives tame them and make them drag them about on sledges. A reindeer will draw a man a hundred miles in one day. The Laplanders keep great herds of them, and live almost wholly on their milk and flesh. They also dress in their skins.

Another time when I went out hunting five or six men went with me, that they might take care of the meat before the wolves had time to eat it. It happened that we saw several strange looking animals at a great distance, and we immediately went after them.

When we came near we saw that they were as big as cows, only their legs were a good deal shorter and their hair was very long. On some of them it was so long that it trailed on the ground and they trod on it. Their tails were as short as the tails of rabbits. Indeed, we thought at first that they had no tails at all. They were of a reddish color. They had hoofs and horns

like our cattle, and we afterwards learned that they were musk-oxen.

When we got nigh enough I fired and hurt an old bull. All the rest ran away, but he did not seem to be frightened at all. The pain of his wound made him angry. He tore up the ground with his horns and bellowed. And when he saw me he ran at me, to kill me.

I ran for my life, but it was of little use. He ran twice as fast as I did, and if he had caught me he would certainly have killed me. And as he was going to catch me Dick Murray fired and hit him again. This made him turn, and he chased Dick Murray, as he had chased me. He would certainly have caught him if Bill Bobstay had not fired at him. When Bill's gun went off the musk-ox gave one frightful bellow and tumbled down dead.

We went up to him and took his skin off. His flesh looked very white and nice, like veal,

but it had a strong smell like the perfume that is called musk. I used my jack-knife to cut him up, and it afterwards smelled very strong. I was obliged to scour it with sand before I could get the smell out. The ox's flesh was very good to eat for all that.

CHAPTER XIV.

About White Foxes, and Jack Halliard's tame Fox. How the Esquimaux wore two Suits of Clothes, and lived in Houses of Snow. Many other entertaining Things.

While we were frozen up at Southampton Island, we saw several strange animals. Once as I was looking out from the deck I saw a beautiful little beast coming toward the ship. It was as big as a little dog, and had long hair round its neck, which made it look as if it had a ruffle on. I got a gun and shot it, and Captain Scoresby said it was an Arctic fox. Soon after a great many more came about the Spermaceti.

I made a trap, such as boys catch squirrels in, which they call a box trap, only it was quite large. I set it upon the ice near the ship and baited it with a piece of whale. I caught a fox in it in the course of a few hours.

I wanted to keep him alive, for he was perfectly white and very beautiful. So I made a little house of ice for him and put him into it. He soon became perfectly tame, and I called him Thomas. When I gave him a piece of meat he would hide it in the snow. Afterwards, I made a little wooden box for him on the deck with a door to it, and chained him close to the door. The men used to drag him out by the chain, to look at him which he did not like at all. At last, when he went into his box he would drag the chain in after him, and when any one went to take hold of it he would snap at their fingers. I meant to have brought him home with me; but he died on the passage.

Many of the other men caught foxes also, for they were very beautiful.

Once, as I was smoking my pipe with the mate, down below, the people on deck cried out that there were some Indians coming toward us. I went up to see them. There were twenty or thirty of them, and an odd figure they made. They were dressed in skins with the hair on and their garments were made so loose that they looked broader than they were long.

When they were pretty nigh us, they stopped, and seemed afraid to come nearer. So some of us went toward them, and shook hands with them. There were one or two who had on handsome clothes, and the mate made them understand that he should like to buy their garments.

We were very much surprised to see them begin to strip; for the weather was colder than you ever knew it here. But we soon found that it was no such terrible thing as we thought. They had on two suits, one over the other.

These people were Esquimaux Indians. They were very quiet and civil, and after they had looked at everything on board, they asked us to go with them to their village. We went with them, and their little town was the most extraordinary thing I ever saw. What do you think their houses were made of? You can never guess, and therefore I must tell you. They were made of snow !

These houses were small, and inside they were shaped like an oven. Three or four of them had doors, which led from one to the other through passages arched over with snow. There was no fire in them ; but they were warmed with lamps, and the light came in through a window of ice in the top.

These people had canoes, such as we had seen among the Greenlanders, and dressed like them. They had spears and bows and arrows, and we soon learned that they were all fishermen, and

got their living by catching seals and walrusses and fish. They often eat the flesh of these creatures raw, and drank their oil as one of our people would drink a cup of tea.



Here is an Esquimaux killing a walrus.

Nevertheless, they had earthen pots to cook in. They hung them over their lamps, which were made of stone, and boiled the flesh in that way. You may suppose that they could not make fires in houses made of snow.

Some of them had knives made of iron, which

showed that they had seen white people before. But most of their knives were made of the tusks of the walrus and so were their needles.

What puzzled us most were the snow houses. We could not guess how they made them. But before we left the village, another family arrived and began to build one, so that we had a chance to see.

They first began to cut the hard snow into square blocks with their knives. Then they laid a row of these round in a circle. One of the men then got into the circle, and they laid another row of snow blocks on the top of the first. So they went on, and every row leaned more and more inward.

When they had built the house up almost as high as a man's head I thought it would tumble inward, but it did not. But there was another difficulty; those on the outside could not reach their blocks of snow to the one inside.

But the man knew how to get over that. He took his knife and cut a small hole in the wall close to the bottom, and they handed him the blocks through it. He then went on laying one row upon another till they met at the top.



Here is a picture of some Esquimaux building a snow house.

When this was done, the others threw on loose snow with snow shovels to fill up the cracks. One of them cut a small hole in the top of the house and fitted a piece of ice nicely into it for a window, and the house was completed.

When we were tired of looking about we returned to the Spermaceti. The Esquimaux treated us very civilly, and were very honest. I lost my handkerchief among them ; but one of them found it and returned it to me. They were a good people. The only fault we had to find with them was, that they were great beggars. They were all small. Not a man among them was near so tall as I.

CHAPTER XV.

How Jack Halliard was knocked Overboard by a Whale, and nearly Drowned. How the Whale broke another Boat, and swam after every one thought it was Dead.

We had not been long at Southampton Island before there was a strong gale of wind, which blew a great deal of the ice away from the shore and left the sea open near the ship. But still we were frozen up. But Captain Scoresby thought that some whales might come nigh us,

and therefore kept a man always in the crow's nest.

While I was putting on my great coat to go to the Esquimaux village, I heard the man in the crow's nest cry "Fish! fish!" I ran immediately on deck and so did the rest of the men, and we presently lowered all the boats down upon the ice.

It was not long before we dragged the boats over the ice and launched them into the clear water. Then we got in and rowed away toward the whale, which lay perfectly still. My boat was foremost, as it almost always was.

When we came up I drove my harpoon into the fish's back, and it sunk, as whales always do. But it came up again in a moment, and struck the boat a great blow with its tail. The stroke fell a little short or it would have knocked the boat all to pieces. As it was it threw the boat steerer overboard, and he could not swim.

Before we could pick him up the fish hit us again, on the bow of the boat, and struck me and another man into the sea. Then it went off a little way and struck the sea with its tail and fins till it was all in a foam. In the meanwhile it had dragged the boat away from us.

The man who was knocked overboard with me immediately swam toward another of the boats. I was going to do the same, though I was dreadfully hurt by the blow I had received when I saw that the boat steerer was sinking. I swam to him and held him above water till the boat came up, and it was high time, for I was quite tired out and should have sunk in a minute more.

By this time the whale was lying still again, and the mate's boat rowed toward it to put another harpoon into its back. But as he was coming up the fish rushed right backward, and struck the boat right in the middle with its tail.

The blow broke the boat in two pieces, and though the carpenter afterwards mended it, it was never so good as before. It was lucky that the blow fell between the rowers. If it had hit one of them it would certainly have killed him.

The men got upon the pieces of the broken boat. There were seven of them in all. Three who got upon the stern piece, turned it over and over, till they lost their hold, for the cold was very severe. They were drowned, but the other four held on till one of the boats picked them up.

Then Captain Scoresby himself approached the whale, and struck another harpoon into it. The fish struck at his boat, too, but missed it. It ran a little way, dragging the two boats after it, but I think that Captain Scoresby's harpoon hurt it very badly for it presently lay still again.

Then my boat and Captain Scoresby's pulled up to it by the lines, and the people in them be-

gan to use their lances. The whale soon went into its flurry, and the boats moved off to get out of its way. It lay still soon after and every one thought it was dead.

Captain Scoresby jumped upon its belly, and cut holes through its fins. He put a rope through them to drag it to the edge of the ice by. Just as he had done this it began to sink under his feet.

He had hardly time to get into his boat before the whale turned over. It raised its tail into the air and shook it in an awful manner. It cracked something like a whip; only so loud that it could be heard three miles off. It beat the air in this way about five minutes and then died.

We dragged it to the edge of the ice, and flinched it there. We did not let the carcass sink after we had taken the blubber off, but gave it to the Esquimaux, who were very glad of it. They were wild with joy, and as long as the

whale lasted they never once thought of hunting or fishing. They are a careless people, and when they have something to eat, they never think of looking for more till it is all gone.

CHAPTER XVI.

How Jack Halliard and Ocracock went Seal hunting and what Success they had.

One day having nothing to do on board the Spermaceti, I thought I would go to the Esquimaux village. Just as I got there a party of about thirty of them were going out upon the ice to look for seals and walrusses.

They asked me to go with them, and I consented. We went out upon the ice a good way and clomb up a little hill upon it to look out. We sat there more than an hour without seeing anything.

All of a sudden one of the Indians got up with-

out saying a word to any one, and ran off as fast as he could go. His name was Ocracock. The rest soon followed him, and as I thought by the way they acted, that they had seen a seal, I went after them, and did as they did.

They went forward, one right after the other, like a file of soldiers, toward another little hill of ice. There was a seal lying on the other side of it. When they came nigh they crept slowly along, and all at once, they stopped and stooped down to fix their spears and lines. Then they crept forward again, and stopped when the seal raised his head to look round. Thus it was more than an hour before they came close to him.

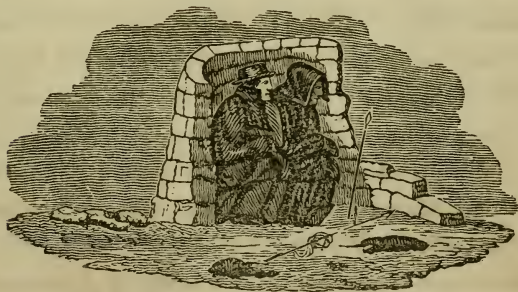
When they were nigh enough Ocracock crept to the top of the little hill and threw his spear at the seal. It hit him and stuck fast in his body, but did not kill him. He dived below the ice through a hole, and I thought he would get away.

But Ocracock had a strong line fastened to his spear, and he held on to it, so that the seal could not get away. He pulled him up to the top of the water, and the others came and killed him with their spears.

They had scarcely killed this seal when one of them said that he saw another at work, and started off to catch him. I looked, but could see nothing. The others then pointed out to me a small rising in the ice, about twice as big as my hat. They told me that there was a seal underneath trying to get up through the ice. So I set off after the Indian to see the sport.

When we came there the Indian laid down, and put his ear to the ice. I did the same and could plainly hear the seal breathing against it. Then the Indian set to work and built a wall of snow about as high as his breast. He had nothing but his hands to do this with, and I helped him.

When we had finished the wall, the Indian stuck up two forked sticks that he had with him in the snow, and laid his spear upon them, so that he might make no noise in moving it. We then sat down, that the snow wall might keep the wind from us and waited for the seal. He also tied my knees together, and his own too, that our clothes might make no noise when we stirred



When we had sat there about an hour, we heard the seal breathe very plainly, which show-

ed that he had almost got through and that the ice was very thin over him.

Then the Indian got up and took his spear in both hands, without making any noise. He drove it through the ice with both arms with all his might and stuck it into the seal. Then he took out his ivory knife and cut a hole in the thin ice, big enough to pull the creature through. Having done this he stabbed the seal in several places and killed it. I helped to pull it out upon the ice.

CHAPTER XVII.

About Dog-Sledges. How Ocracock fought with a White Bear. How the Women carried Babies in their Boots.

While we were doing this another Indian had killed another seal in the same way. A man had carried the news to the village and the

women and children came off to carry the animals home.

These people came on sledges, which were drawn by dogs. The sledges were made of the jaw bones of a whale, and a great many dogs were harnessed to each one of them. They drew their loads very easily, but they were apt to entangle their harness, and to fight with one another as they went along.

They put the seals upon the sledges, and I got upon one of them, and we set off toward the village. The people were all very glad and sung and shouted for joy. As we were going along a white bear came toward us.

All the sledges but that I and Ocracock were upon started off so fast that they left us behind, for we were heavier loaded than any of them. There were seven women on our sledge besides a seal and Ocracock and myself.

When the bear was nigh us Ocracock whipped

his dogs ; but the bear was too fast for us notwithstanding. When we found that we could not get away, Ocracock stopped the sledge and said he would kill the bear. So he loosened his dogs. I would have helped him, but I had no weapons, not even a knife. But there was no need of me.

The dogs ran at the bear and bit his hind legs and made him stop. He caught the head of one of them in his mouth and crushed it as you would crush a small potato between your teeth.

By this time Ocracock came up and threw his spear and hit the bear in the neck. A great stream of blood fell down upon the white skin, but the bear did not mind it. He ran at Ocracock with his mouth wide open, to devour him. But the other dogs laid hold of his heels again, and he was obliged to turn round to face them. At the same time the spear fell out of his neck. Ocracock picked it up again and went to hit

the bear. He turned round and struck at the Indian. If he had hit him he would have killed him, but Ocracock jumped aside, and the bear's paw fell on another of the dogs. The dog never moved again. The blow killed him instantly.

Then Ocracock threw his spear again and hit the bear behind the shoulder. The spear passed quite through his body and the point came out on the other side. Yet the creature did not fall. He ran at Ocracock again and would have caught him if he had not jumped on one side. At the same time the dogs laid hold of the bear again, and he began to grow weak, because he had lost a great deal of blood. Then Ocracock drew his knife. He ran up to the bear and caught him round the neck with his left arm, so that he could not strike him with his paws. While the animal was trying to get away, he gave him three stabs with his ivory knife and he fell down dead.

We took off his skin and cut his flesh into quarters and put him on the sledge. Ocracock called the dogs and harnessed them again. After this we set off and the women walked alongside of the sledge. We overtook the other sledges just before we arrived at the village.

While we were going along, the dress of these people seemed to me more strange than ever. Their boots were so large that they could not run. The women carried their babies in them.

When we got to the village all the people in it began to cry aloud. One little boy was so overjoyed that he threw himself upon one of the seals, and laid fast hold of one of its ears. In this way he was dragged into the village.

I went into one of the snow houses where one of the seals was cut up. An old woman did this business. While she was at work the children crowded in and held up their mouths for a bit of raw flesh, just as a white baby would do for a lump of sugar.

When the seals were cut up they all began to eat as fast as they could. It was astonishing to see how much they ate. Not one of them stopped eating till next morning. They got so much oil from the seals that all their lamps were lighted. An old woman gave up her bed of deer skins to me and I staid with them till the next morning.

CHAPTER XVIII.

How Some Wolves tore a Dog to Pieces. How a Wolf choked Jack Halliard and how Jack Halliard choked the Wolf in Return.

The next day soon after I had returned to the ship, some of the Esquimaux came to see us, and brought some of their dogs with them as usual. I was standing on the deck, looking at the dogs playing, when I saw some wolves coming. So I went below and got my gun.

One of the dogs went a little farther from the ship than the rest. He was a fine sprightly animal like the rest, and as large as the biggest dogs you see about the streets. Six of the wolves came up and laid hold of him.

The dog defended himself as well as he could; but it was of little use. The wolves tore him to pieces in an instant. I fired at them, but missed them. However, they all ran away at the sound of the gun. I went to the place where they had been, and there I found a good deal of blood and one of the dog's hind quarters. They had carried away the rest of him.

After this we set traps round the ship upon the ice to catch the wolves. They came round the ship every night. Once we caught a fox in a little trap, but the wolves broke the trap in pieces and got the fox out and ate him up.

We caught several of the wolves. The first one we caught was very ill natured. Captain

Scoresby and the mate fired two balls into the trap and they both went through his body. They did not kill him, however.

But I lifted up the trap and Dick Murray put his hand in and caught hold of his hind legs and tied them together with his black neck-kerchief. All the while he struggled hard and howled horribly.

Then I pulled him out of the trap. He was no sooner out, than he leaped upon me and caught me by the neck with his teeth. If I had not had on a silk handkerchief he would have hurt me severely. I caught him round the neck and squeezed him with both hands as hard as I could, I was then a very strong man, and he was soon glad to let go.

However, I held him fast while Captain Scoresby ran a knife through his body. The pain of this wound made him struggle so hard that he got away from me, and he ran amongst

the men, with his mouth wide open, though his legs were tied, and he fell down several times. He met John Raw and gave him a severe bite in the knee which made him lame for more than a month after. He then loosened the knot round his legs and ran away.

The next day, as I was out upon the ice with my gun, I found the wolf lying dead and frozen stiff. We afterwards caught a great many more wolves.

CHAPTER XIX.

About a Whale's Baby. How Jack Halliard caught two Whales with one Harpoon.

A few days after, the man in the crow's nest again cried, "Fish!" The boats were soon dragged over the ice into the clear water and we pulled away toward the whales. There were two of them, a young one and its mother.

The old whale kept swimming to and fro, so that we could not easily get nigh her. After trying a good while the mate cried to strike the little one, and then the mother, he said, would be quiet enough.

When I say a little whale you must not suppose that I mean a little fish. This one was a sucking whale, but it was twenty feet long. It was a silly creature, for it laid quite still till I stuck my harpoon three feet into its side.

The little whale began to drag the boat forward, but not very fast, for it was not strong enough. Suddenly, the old one rushed up from the bottom close alongside my boat and nearly upset it. She caught the young one under her fins, and dragged it along a considerable distance, as quick as I ever saw a fish go in my life.

She was soon tired of this and obliged to let go. But she swam round and round my boat,

bellowing and roaring, and beating the water with her tail and fins. I thought several times that she would have knocked the boat to pieces.

At last she came nigh the mate's boat, and he stuck his harpoon into her. She did not offer to run away, as other whales do, but swam round and round her young one, till the mate pulled his boat up alongside of her and took his lance. He struck her with it several times, till she was dead.

While he was doing this I had pulled my boat up to the little whale. When I struck it with my lance it dived, and swam a great way downward, and did not come up again. The men said it had gone to the bottom and died there.

Then we began to pull it up by the line, but while we were haling it, it was pulled out of our hands as suddenly and violently as if we had just struck a large fish. We did not know what to make of it.

Presently a very large whale rose to the surface of the water nigh us and began to blow. It laid perfectly still, however. The other boats rowed up to it, and three harpoons were struck into it at once. Then the men began to lance it, and it presently went into its *flurry*.

When it was dead we found that it had run against my line and had got entangled in it. The line was wound six or seven times round its body. One of the boats towed it toward the edge of the ice, while I pulled up the rest of the line, with the little whale at the end of it, and my harpoon sticking fast in him. Captain Scoresby called me a lucky fellow, for, he said, he had never known a man to catch a whale before without using a harpoon. I was much pleased with the adventure.

CHAPTER XX.

How Jack Halliard bought an Esquimaux Boy. How a Thief was put in the Coal Hole. About the Man who spoiled Captain Scoresby's Watch and was Whipped for it.

A day or two afterwards I was at the Esquimaux village and staid there an hour or two. Four or five of the men were with me. We bought some spears and bows and arrows and others things beside a sledge to carry them to the ship.

When we were going to start, there was a handsome little boy standing near me. Out of a joke and to see if these people loved their children I offered his father a knife for him. He took the knife and seemed very glad to get it, and the boy ran for his mittens which appeared to be all he cared for.

We then all set out together, and the lad helped to draw the sledge. But when he began to understand that I had bought him, he became sorrowful. He stopped behind a snowdrift and hid himself, so that when we got to the ship he was missing. I was very glad of it, for I did not mean to buy him in the first place. I should not have known what to do with him. Besides, I afterwards found that his father and I had not understood one another. The old man thought that I offered him the knife only to let the boy go with me to the ship. He loved him as well as any white man loves his son.

That afternoon several of the Esquimaux came to the ship, and one of them, who was an old man, stole a brass nail. This was the first thing any of them had taken without leave, and Captain Scoresby pretended to be very angry about it. He turned the old man out of the ship and told him never to come back again.

After this another man stole a boat hook, and we caught him as he was carrying it off, and brought him back to the ship. When we asked him why he did it he only laughed. Captain Scoresby told us to put him down into the hole where we kept the coals with which we used to warm the ship, and we did so. The next day the captain let him go again.

Soon after, the Indians began to steal worse and worse, and what was strange, they were not ashamed of it. If you should think that they were very ignorant savages indeed, you would not be mistaken. Captain Scoresby said he would soon find a way to put a stop to their bad behavior.

One day several of them came into the cabin where the captain was busy writing. He happened to look up and saw that his fine gold watch was gone from the place where it had been hanging. He knew that some of them

must have taken it, but they all denied it. So he searched them; but did not find his watch. But I happened to come in, and took up the poker, to poke the fire in the stove and there I found the watch, red hot and completely spoiled. The man who took it had put it into the stove, when the captain began to search the others, to prevent being caught. The others charged him with the theft to excuse themselves, and he did not deny it. The captain was very angry, as well he might be, for the watch was a very fine one, and had been given him by his father. "Here, Jack," said he to me, "take this rascal and tie him to the mainmast, and give him two dozen lashes."

So I took the Indian by the ear and led him on deck. He trembled very much, and begged me not to kill him. I made him strip off all his clothes excepting his breeches, and then told him to put his hands round the mast. When he had done this I tied his wrists together.

I then went below and got a cat o' nine tails, which is a whip with nine short lashes to it. With this thing I gave him twenty four stripes on his naked back, and I laid them on pretty hard, for I always disliked a thief. At the first blow he cried Oh ! Oh ! Oh ! and while I was giving him the rest he never stopped dancing and howling.

The other Indians stood by and laughed at him, and told him what a bad man he was. It seemed to me that they expected to make us think them honest by calling him bad names.

When I untied him, he did not stop to put on his clothes, though it was cold. He caught them up under his arms, and jumped out of the ship upon the ice and began to run. He never stopped till he got to the Esquimaux village. After this there were no more things stolen from us.



Here is a group of the Esquimaux.

CHAPTER XXI.

How the Indians went to Sea on Pieces of Ice. How one of them was Lost. How Jack Halliard eat boiled Walrus Flesh. About the Esquimaux Children.

On the morning of April Fools' Day a great field of ice floated into the bay where we were lying, and soon stuck fast to the fixed ice. It was as much as two miles across it.

The man in the crow's nest cried out that he saw several walrusses lying near the farthest edge of the ice. The captain was a very good-natured man, and though one of the Indians had destroyed his watch, he did not like to see those poor people hungry. So he sent a sailor to the village to let them know about the walrusses.

The Indians immediately got their spears ready, and set out upon the ice to kill the ani-

mals. But they had hardly got upon the new field of ice, when the wind began to blow from the shore. It soon broke the field into several pieces, and blew them away from the land, with the Indians upon them.

Captain Scoresby at first thought of sending the boats to bring them back; but some of the women who were on board, begged him not to do so. They said that the wind would change in the afternoon, and bring their husbands back again.

I went to the mast head to watch them. Truly, it was an awful thing to see men floating about on pieces of ice in a stormy sea, which might swallow them up at any moment. But the Indians did not seem to mind it themselves at all. They pursued their sport as if they had been on dry land. I saw them kill three walruses, in the same way Ocracock had killed the seal I told you about.

Toward night, the wind changed, just as the women had said, and the loose ice began to float toward the shore. All the men got safe home, but one, who was never heard of again. Probably the ice carried him far out to sea, where he was drowned, or starved, or eaten by the bears.

It happened that this was the man whom I had whipped. Captain Scoresby sent a boat to look for him, and it was out at sea all night. The men found his mittens on a piece of floating ice, but that was all. Such accidents often happen to the Esquimaux.

The other Indians did not seem to care at all for what had happened. They had caught four walrusses, and they passed the night in eating and making merry. I took a walk to the village to see them.

These poor, ignorant people seemed to have no notion of religion. They were all stuffing

and cramming, without giving a thought to the poor man who had perished. I tried to make them understand that they ought to thank God for having preserved them from such a dreadful fate. I told them that no people ought to admire their Maker's goodness more than they, because they were every day in perils, from which his care only could deliver them. But they only laughed at me.

It was astonishing to see how these people ate. One small boy about eight years old, devoured a lump of meat at least as big as my hat. Besides, he drank as much as a quart of oil; just such oil as we put into our lamps. I wonder that he was not sick after it, but he was not.

One old woman offered me a dish full of boiled walrus meat. I was not hungry, but I took it, and I can assure you it was very good. The old woman thanked me for taking her meat, as

if I had done her a kindness, and as politely as any white lady could have done. When we gave these Indians any thing to eat on board the ships, they never thanked us at all; but when we took any thing from them, it pleased them mightily, and they were very thankful.

I was much pleased with the behavior of the children. Some of my young readers, perhaps, might take example from them. They did not cry or be noisy, and they were very obedient to their parents. Three of them danced to amuse me, and it was really a very pretty sight. One of them had a little drum shaped like a tambourine, which she beat with a stick. One of the women sung a tune for them to dance by.



Here is a picture of the Esquimaux children dancing.

CHAPTER XXII.

How the Indians mended their Snow Houses. How Jack Halliard and Ocracock went Hunting together, and killed four Reindeer.

The weather now grew warmer, and the ice and snow began to melt away. This made the Indians quite uncomfortable. The insides of their snow houses had become black with lamp smoke, and the sun melted them so that they dripped upon the people inside. This kept them wet, and many of them caught bad colds.

But they were ingenious, and had a way to remedy this inconvenience. They built up new snow houses over the old ones, just as one box goes over another in a nest. They then cut the old ones to pieces with their knives, and carried the pieces away through the door. It

seems rather strange, does it not, that people should find houses made of snow too warm.

One day, as I was out hunting on shore, I met my friend Ocracock, with a bow and arrows in his hand, and the skin of a reindeer's head under his arm. I asked him where he was going, and he said he was going to look for deer.

So I went with him, because I wanted to know how these people hunt, and besides, I thought he would be more likely to find game than I. We walked about two miles into the island together, till we came to a small hill with several large rocks on the side of it.

We clomb to the top of this hill, and saw a herd of reindeer feeding on the other side of it. Then Ocracock put the skin, which had the horns on, on his head, and got behind a rock. I got behind another.

Presently Ocracock began to cry like a deer.

At the same time, he put his head out from behind the rock, and began to rub his horns against it, just as reindeer sometimes do. Then the reindeer came slowly towards us. They were, I think, deceived by Ocracock's voice, and took him for a reindeer rubbing his horns against the rock.

When the reindeer were nigh enough, I was going to shoot at them, but Ocracock begged me not to do so. If I shot, he said, the noise would scare the rest away. Therefore I staid still till my patience was almost worn out; for though I could easily have killed one with my gun, they were too far for Ocracock to reach with his bow and arrows.

At last one of them came so close to Ocracock, that, if he had had a long pole, he might have reached it. Then he shot an arrow through the creature's heart, and it fell dead.

Another ran up, to see what was the matter

with the first, and then another: Ocracock shot them both dead. Then the herd became frightened, and began to scamper away. However, I fired at them as they were running off, and was lucky enough to kill a fine large one. So we had four reindeer between us, but we could not carry them all away. If we had carried off two, the wolves would have eaten the others before we could have returned.

Therefore I left Ocracock to watch the deer while I went to the ship. I soon came back with other men, and we carried all our meat to the ship.

CHAPTER XXIII.

How the Ship was saved out of the Ice. About the Esquimaux.

We staid where we were till the month of June, and still the ice continued fast about us. We began to be afraid that it would not move for the whole summer, and that we should be kept till we starved to death; for a good part of the ship's provisions had been eaten up.

Captain Scoresby said that we should have to saw out. We were at least a mile from the open water, and the ice was very thick, so that at first I thought the good Captain was talking nonsense.

I soon found that I was mistaken, and that Captain Scoresby was a wiser man than I. He caused the sailors to cut a hole through the ice

with axes, and we then let down a large saw, such as are used in saw-mills, and the first day we sawed the ice through, quite round the *Spermaceti*, so that she floated.

We then cut out another great block of ice as long and as wide as the ship. When we had done this, we put great stones on one end of it, so that it sunk deep in the water, and then took poles and pushed it under the fixed ice.

As fast as we opened a space, the ship was hauled into it, for fear it should freeze up again. We worked in this way twenty days, till we had got the ship quite through the ice into open water. When the ship was once more in the open sea, the men gave nine loud cheers, and the Captain ordered a flag to be hoisted. We then set the sails, and sailed eastward along the coast.

Our Esquimaux friends were very sorry to part with us, for we had fed them when they were hungry, and had given them a great many useful

things. They came off in their canoes to take leave of us, and we gave them several broken oars and pieces of wood, which must have been useful to them to make spears and bows and arrows. Wood is very valuable to them, for none grows in their country, and very little of it floats to their shores.

I do not think they were a grateful people. Ocracock, it is true, gave me a comb he had made, and his wife gave me a handsome pair of mittens. But I had given him a great many things, and none of the rest so much as thanked the captain or any of us.

CHAPTER XXIV.

About Dolphins. How Captain Scoresby killed One. About a Battle between a Whale and a Saw-Fish. How Jack Halliard got back to England.

We were sailing along with a good breeze, hoping to be soon in England, when we found ourselves in the midst of a shoal of dolphins. This is the fish that is commonly called a porpoise, and I do not doubt that those of my young readers who live in Boston have seen some of them from the wharves.

They swam very fast, indeed. One of them was scarcely seen before he was out of sight again. Some of them capered about in a singular manner and threw themselves three or four feet out of water. Sometimes they would start forward, and cross the bow of the vessel and then drop back again and go round her. It seem-

ed as if they wished to say, "We can beat you, sail as fast as you will."

Captain Scoresby had a curiosity to see a dolphin at a shorter distance, and got into the bow of the ship to catch one. He had a long spear in his hands, which had several prongs, and is called a *grains* by sailors. As one of the dolphins swam close to the ship the captain struck him in the back with the grains, and we had him presently hoisted on board. He was about six feet long; but there was nothing remarkable in him.

A day or two after we saw a whale at a distance, and were going to let down the boats to go after him, when he began to swim round and round in a remarkable manner. He bellowed and beat the water with his tail, and seemed to be much frightened. So Captain Scoresby stopped the boats and steered the ship directly toward the whale.

When we came near we saw another fish

about twelve feet long fighting with the whale. It had a bone about six feet in length growing out of its nose, and this bone had teeth set in the sides of it, like the teeth of a saw, only longer and sharper. It was a saw-fish.

Without thinking what I did I took up a gun and was going to shoot the saw-fish, but Captain Scoresby stopped me. "What are you going to do, Jack?" said he. Let the saw-fish alone and he will presently kill the whale and we shall get it. So I laid down the gun again.

In the meanwhile the whale and the saw-fish kept on fighting. The whale struck at the saw-fish with its tail, but could not hit it for it was very nimble and took care to get out of the way. It would swim against the great creature and bury its long saw in his body, and then swim quickly off again. Sometimes the whale tried to get away, but the saw-fish always stopped him, for it swam a great deal the fastest.

At last the whale began to beat the water with its tail and fins till the sea all round him seemed to boil like a pot. Presently he grew quiet and turned over in the water and died. We then brought him alongside the vessel and flinched him.

This was the last of my adventures on this voyage that is worth mentioning. In about six weeks we got safe back to London. The first thing I did was to go to St. Paul's Church to give thanks to Almighty God for having preserved me from the dangers of the icy seas and the whale fishery, which, I suppose you know by this time, are many and very great. I then went to the owners of the ship and got my wages which amounted to a good round sum. What I did afterwards I will, perhaps, tell you at a more convenient season.

